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**Alleged Gang Member Charged with Murder
at Redondo Beach Gas Station**

A 19-year-old alleged gang member was arraigned today on charges of killing a man and injuring another at a gas station in Redondo Beach, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Erik Martinez (dob 2/15/97) of Long Beach faces one count each murder and attempted murder in case YA094350.

Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Turk of the Hardcore Gang Division said the felony complaint includes allegations that Martinez used a handgun and committed the crimes in association with a criminal street gang.

Martinez pleaded not guilty today and is scheduled to return on Aug. 31 in Department 4 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Torrance Branch.

On June 16, the defendant is accused of fatally shooting Mike Cortez, 19, of Lawndale, in the head and the back at a gas station on the corner of Inglewood and Marine avenues, the prosecutor said. Martinez allegedly shot a second man in the stomach, but he survived, the prosecutor added.

Bail is set at more than \$3 million. If convicted as charged, Martinez faces a possible maximum sentence of 50 years to life in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Redondo Beach Police Department.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.